C o n f i d e n t i a l

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Executive Committee No. 3

M I N U T E S
of the
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
of the
WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Kifissia, Greece, August 17-18, 1959

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
1.	Presiding	1
2.	Attendance	1
3.	Worship	1
4.	Message to the King	1
5.	Minutes	2
6.	The Roman Catholic Ecumenical Council	2
7.	Relations with the Moscow Patriarchate	2
8.	Arrangements for the Central Committee	2
9.	Vacancy in the Praesidium & Revision of Rules	2
10.	Applications for Membership	2
11.	Plans for the Third Assembly	3
12.	Proposed Integration of the IMC and WCC	3
13.	Future Meetings	3
14.	Proselytism	4
15.	The Population Explosion"	4
16.	First Report of the Committee on Programme and Finance	5
17.	Headquarters Properties	5
18.	Staffing Committee	6
19.	Faith and Order	8
	Adjournment	11

Confidential

Executive Committee No. 3
August 1959

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

M I N U T E S
of the
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Kifissia, Greece, August 17-18, 1959

1. Presiding : Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, Chairman
Dr. Ernest A. Payne, Vice-chairman

2. Attendance:

Presidents: Dr. John Baillie
Bishop Sante Uberto Barbieri
Metropolitan Juhanon Mar Thoma
Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill

Members: Dr. Eugene C. Blake
Dr. K. Bliss
Rev. P.K. Dagadu
Professor J.L. Hromadka
Metropolitan James of Philadelphia
Dr. Martin Niemöller
Dean Liston Pope

Consultants: Sir Kenneth Grubb
Bishop J.E.L. Newbigin

Staff: Rev. Paul Abrecht
Dr. Roswell P. Barnes
Dr. R.S. Bilheimer
Dr. Edgar Chandler
Dr. L.E. Cooke
Rev. John Garrett
Dr. Norman Goodall
Dr. H.H. Harms
Rev. F.H. House
Dr. D.T. Niles
Dr. O.F. Nolde
Mr. Frank Northam
Rev. Philip Potter
Rev. J.J. Thomsen
Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft

3. Worship

Opening devotions were led by the Chairman.

4. Message to the King

It was agreed to send a message to H.M. the King of Greece thanking him for his invitation and praying for his health.

5. The Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee at Geneva, February 9-13, 1959 were approved as circulated.

6. The Roman Catholic Ecumenical Council

The relevant passage in the draft of the report of the Executive Committee to the Central Committee was read and approved.

7. Relations with the Moscow Patriarchate

The General Secretary reported on the visit of the two representatives of the Patriarchate to Geneva and on the plans for his return visit to the USSR in December when he hoped to visit Lutheran, Baptist-Evangelical and Armenian church leaders as well as the Church of the Moscow Patriarchate. He planned to take with him Mr. Kyaw Than, Dr. O.F. Nolde, Dr. N. Nissiotis, the Rev. F.House and an interpretor. The Executive agreed that the choice of the members of the delegation should be left to the General Secretary.

8. Arrangements for the Central Committee at Rhodes were approved.

9. Vacancy in the Praesidium and Revision of Rules

The General Secretary reported that there was considerable support for the proposal that Archbishop Iakovos should be elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of his predecessor, but there was the problem of his eligibility for re-election for a full term after the Third Assembly. To keep this possibility open it would be necessary to alter Rule III. 2. to read: A president elected by an Assembly shall be ineligible for immediate re-election when his term of office ends.

After assurances had been given concerning Orthodox support for the election of Archbishop Iakovos, it was agreed

a) that he should be nominated to the Central Committee for election as one of the presidents,

b) that the suggested change of rule should be included with others arising from integration, etc. which would come before the Central Committee.

In response to the request of the Reverend Peter Dagadu the Chairman gave an assurance that the question of the rule regarding the autonomy of Churches applying for membership would be again re-examined when the revision of the rules was undertaken.

10. Applications for membership

The General Secretary reported that there were in fact no applications from Churches. It was agreed to recommend to the Central Committee acceptance of the Ecumenical Councils of the Churches in Austria and in Czechoslovakia, and authorization for the General Secretary to admit the Korean

Christian Council if satisfactory replies were received concerning acceptance of the Basis and other technical points.

11. Plans for the Third Assembly

Dr. Bilheimer reported that New Delhi would be a particularly suitable place, that the member Churches in India would welcome the holding of the Assembly there and that the Government of India would raise no objections. As regards the date it was agreed to recommend to the Central Committee that the Assembly should be held approximately from the 20th November to the 7th December.

It was agreed to remit the results of the meetings at Spittal of the preparatory commissions on the sections to the sub-committee of the Central Committee on the Assembly and to ask the sub-committee both to evaluate the draft reports and to advise on the best way of handling the transmission of this material to the Churches.

After a long discussion on the allocation of places at the Assembly, it was agreed to forward the whole question to the Committee of the Central Committee on the Assembly.

12. Proposed integration of the IMC and WCC

It was agreed to refer both the report of the Joint Committee and the discussion of the future of the report on Proselytism to the same Reference Committee of the Central Committee with the recommendation that the Reference Committee should draft a resolution a) taking cognizance of the replies of the member Churches, b) offering comments on the draft constitutions, and c) commending the proposals to the facourable consideration of the churches.

13. Future meetings

a) Bishop Barbieri reported plans for meetings and visitation by members of the Executive Committee in South America in February as follows:

i) February 5-6, Consultation in Buenos Aires with about 150 church leaders.

ii) February 8-12, Meeting of the Executive Committee

iii) February 7 and 14 (Sundays), Visitation of churches.

iv) February 15-16, a meeting with about 30 Brazilian church leaders and a Rapid Social Change Conference in San Paolo to which those attending the Executive would be invited.

Dr. Barnes reminded members of the Committee that the WCC New York office would welcome early information regarding any services which might be required of them by Executive members or staff in transit through the USA to or from South America.

The General Secretary said that plans would if possible be made for members of staff attending the Executive to visit also churches on the West side of South America.

b) Dr. Bilheimer reported the dates proposed for committee meetings at St. Andrew's, Scotland in August 1960. These proposals were referred to the Central Committee for decision.

c) The dates of the winter meeting of the Executive in 1961 would be approximately February 6 to 10. The summer meeting would probably be 17-21 July. (There would be no meeting of the Central Committee but various groups preparing for the Assembly might have to meet). It was recommended that either the February or the July meeting of the Executive should be held in Geneva and the other elsewhere. The General Secretary would make proposals later.

14. Proselytism

The General Secretary reported that only a small number of Churches had replied but all were basically positive. After several members of the Committee had expressed the hope that the report should not be weakened in whatever form it was eventually adopted, and the need for time for further serious discussion in the churches had been emphasized,

it was agreed

to send the entire report to the Reference Committee of the Central Committee which was concerned also with the issues of integration of the WCC and IMC, with the recommendation that it should be sent again to the Churches with comments and a request that they should consider it for action to be taken by the Central Committee in the summer of 1960 or thereafter.

15. The "population explosion"

Dr. Goodall reported briefly the antecedents of the Mansfield College Conference and asked what the next steps should be. After a brief discussion, it was agreed

a) that at this year's Central Committee it would be sufficient if a reference was included in the report of the CCIA,

b) that Parts One to Three of the Mansfield College Report should be published in the Ecumenical Review with a preface describing the origin of the document and encouraging further discussion in the churches.

Suggestions concerning publication of the statements of the Churches on this matter and other aspects of it were referred to the CCIA for consideration. Archimandrite Timiadis expressed thanks for the work of Dr. Goodall and Dr. Fagley and emphasized the fact that this question was very acute in the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches as well as in Protestant churches.

16. First Report of the Committee on Programme and Finance

Dr. Blake drew attention to the most significant recommendations. The unexpectedly early adjournment of the meeting prevented any discussion of the substance but it was agreed

not to send the Report to a reference committee, but to note carefully the reactions to the Report of the Central Committee meeting in plenary session, and to draw the attention of the members of the Central Committee to the fact that comments and reactions could be most useful if they could be sent to Geneva well before the next meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee, i.e. within the next four months.

17. Headquarters Properties

Bishop Sherrill gave a brief pre-view of his report to the Central Committee on the progress made in raising the Headquarters Properties Fund of $ 2½ million. Sums actually received or fully assured amounted to $ 1½ million. Bishop Sherrill indicated the sources from which this amount had been received or assured, including a gift of about $ 210,000 from the family of the late Mr. Thomas J. Watson for the library. The raising of this amount might be considered as quite a considerable achievement. On the other hand, the task of raising the remaining $ 1 million was a considerable one. However, campaigns were being continued or started in a number of countries and there was good reason to believe that if maximum efforts were continued, the fund would be completed. Bishop Sherrill paid tribute to the considerable help received from Dr. Roswell Barnes in his campaign.

Principal Baillie expressed the satisfaction of the Executive Committee and their gratitude to Bishop Sherrill who seemed to have given the whole of his time to this purpose since his retirement from the office of Presiding Bishop. He had achieved results which surpassed the expectations of many.

Dr. Blake reported that the contract for the exchange of properties with the authorities of the City of Geneva had been completed with effect from June 1, 1959. Thus, the World Council became owner of the new property and the period of three years rent-free occupation of the Malagnou properties began on that date.

Dr. Blake further reported that although there had been delays and difficulties in the working out of detailed architects' plans and the securing of tenders, detailed plans would be submitted to the Central Committee for all except the chapel and were considered to be highly satisfactory. Models of two alternative designs for the chapel would be available and also suggestions as to how final plans for the chapel might be ready for submission to the Executive Committee meeting in February 1960. Estimates of costs based on detailed plans and detailes consultations with contractors

would also be available.

Dr. Blake reported that there had been no possibility of arranging meetings of the Finance Sub-Committee or the Headquarters Properties Committee during the Executive Committee meeting. It would therefore be necessary for these questions t.o be submitted direct to a meeting of the Headquarters Proties Committee during the Central Committee meeting in Rhodes.

18. Staffing Committee

By postal vote in Rhodes the Executive Committee approved the report of the Staffing Committee as follows:

1. Associate General Secretaries

That it be recommended to the Central Committee that

a) Dr. R.S. Bilheimer's appointment which expires September 30, 1959 be extended for a further period of five years;

b) Dr. L.E. Cooke's appointment which expires May 31, 1960 be extended to August 31, 1962;

c) Mr. F.H. House's appointment which expires August 31, 1960 be extended to January 31, 1962.

2. Secretaries in South East Asia

That subject to complementary action by the IMC and EACC:

a) Mr. Alan Brash's appointment which expires December 31, 1959 be extended for a further three years;

b) Mr. Kyaw Than's appointment which expires September 30, 1960 be extended for a further three years;

c) Dr. D.T. Niles' appointment which expires March 31, 1960 be extended for a further three years.

3. Heads of Departments

a) that it be recommended to the Central Committee that the following appointments which expire at the end of 1960 be extended for a further period of three years:

Mr. Paul Abrecht
Mlle. Madeleine Barot
Dr. Hans Harms, and that he be invited to undertake immediately senior responsibility in the Department of Faith and Order while remaining Associate Director of the Division of Studies,
Dr. Elfan Rees.

b) that the appointment of Mr. Frank Northam which expires at the end of 1960 be extended for a further period of five years.

4. Secretaries that

a) the appointments of the following be extended for three years:

Dr. N. Nissiotis whose appointment expires August 31, 1960
Mr. L. van Ouwenaller whose appointment expires September 30, 1960
Mr. R. Weltge whose appointment expires April 30, 1960

b) the appointment of the following which expire at the end of 1960 be extended for a further period of three years:

Miss E.K. Browne (subject to concurrent action by the US Conference)

Mr. M. Burton
Mr. Alan Haigh
Mr. W. Kordon
Miss S. Mathil
Mr. A. de Weymarn

c) the appointment of Mr. H. Partin which expires at the end of 1960 be extended to August 31, 1961, subject to the concurrence of the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ).

d) the re-appointment of the following members of the staff of DICASR whose appointments expire at the end of 1960 be considered at the February meeting of the Executive Committee, following a report by the Administrative Committee of the Division:

Dr. E. Chandler
Dr. U. van Beyma
Dr. R. Dudley
Miss M. Jaboor
Rev. R. Maxwell
Mr. B. Sjollema

e) the re-appointment of Miss V. Laufer whose appointment expires at the end of 1960 be considered at the February meeting of the Executive Committee.

f) an invitation be extended to Mr. Henri Makulu to be the fourth member of the Institute staff for a period of three years and that should he not be available a similar invitation be extended to another named person.

g) the following appointments made by the officers under the delegated authority given by the Executive Committee be confirmed:

Mr. B. Hickman - World Refugee Year Reporter in Information Department for one year from June 1, 1959

Miss U. Kagawa - Secretary for World Youth Projects in Youth Department for three years from June 1959

Miss Nancy Lawrence - Secretary for Publicity in Information Department for three years from May 15, 1959.

h) it was reported that Mr. Stringfellow had declined the invitation to join the staff of the Laity and Cooperation Departments and that no further name could as yet be submitted. It was agreed that should a name come forward, the officers shall have power to make an appointment subject to reporting of action taken to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

i) It was reported that no-one was in sight for appointment as Head of the Department on Evangelism. Authority was given to the officers to seek to make temporary arrangement according to usual procedures.

19. Discussion on the Report on the Future of Faith and Order

Dr. Visser 't Hooft introduced the discussion, reminding the Committee that the Commission on Faith and Order had appointed a committee to deal with the future work of Faith and Order. A first report had been presented to the Central Committee last summer; a further report was now ready. There is some new material in the second report and there are some changes in it as contrasted with the first. The second report deals with two main areas of which the first is the question of "Churchly Unity" and the second, questions of programme and structure, the latter involving the place of Faith and Order in the World Council. The "Churchly Unity" issue will need a long debate. The questions of programme and structure should be looked at by the Executive Committee because of its importance for the work of the Committee on Programme and Finance and for problems of staffing and budget.

The Chairman called upon the Bishop of Bristol who presented a brief summary of the second report on Faith and Order concerning the future. In closing he expressed the desire of the Working Committee of Faith and Order to enter into a dialogue in which many are concerned. The Working Committee had the report of the Programme and Finance Committee before it and felt that it was necessary to make a rejoinder concerning their own thinking regarding Faith and Order developments and needs. A further statement will be desired for the Faith and Order Commission which meets in the summer of 1960.

Dr. Payne felt that there was need for some increase in the present Faith and Order staff and spoke to certain problems, especially as concerning procedure and time table.

Dr. Blake as chairman of the Committee on Programme and Finance welcomed the prospect of a dialogue concerning the Faith and Order report. The next meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee would be late in the spring of 1960. He suggested that on the immediate problem of assistance to Faith and Order some help might be provided without raising at once the larger issue of the status of Faith and Order in the WCC structure. If the matter of immediate help were referred to the Finance Committee this summer, some help might be found, although there are other pressures from other directions.

The Bishop of Bristol recognized the point of Dr. Payne about the dilemma of the time table, namely the need for immediate help and the problem of making major changes speedily. It would appear that a breaking up of the problem as suggested by Dr. Blake would be the best way forward.

Dr. Visser 't Hooft stated that clarity was needed concerning the whole matter and indicated that there are four major points.

a) The report on the future of Faith and Order brings forward a new concept of Faith and Order. This is to be welcomed because it is a more clear and definite Faith and Order programme than we have had. It is however not yet clear whether this new concept of Faith and Order will be accepted by the Churches and it is necessary to be clear on this score. The essential point is as to whether Faith and Order should promote unity as distinguished from conducting studies in regard to unity. The Faith and Order tradition is a tradition of study as Canon Hodgson had many times made clear. If we now go further, it must be clear that the churches are behind us. The same would apply to what the report says about the concept of "Churchly Unity".

b) The report says that the secretary of Faith and Order must be a senior person who would play a greater role in the World Council. This was the case at one time and this policy was then followed by one of having younger men for the staff. It is very difficult to find such a man as Faith and Order desires.

c) The report requests a staff increase. The report of the Committee on Programme and Finance provides for a staff of two people. Here the problem is not so much a problem of Faith and Order as of Faith and Order in relation to other departments. We now have more Faith and Order staff than we had before since Oliver Tomkins gave considerable time to other concerns and Canon Hodgson before him was only part-time.

d) The report suggests that Faith and Order might become a Division. The majority in the Working Committee agreed that this question must be looked at in the context of the World Council as a whole. It is necessary, however, to face the likelihood that if Faith and Order does become a Division the total divisional structure of the World Council will break down.

Against the background of these points it is necessary for the Executive Committee to indicate how the matter may be handled at the Central Committee.

The Chairman agreed with the analysis of Dr. Visser 't Hooft and stated that in his judgment it would not be possible to do anything before the Third Assembly on the basis of a new concept of Faith and Order.

Dr. Bliss commented that the Faith and Order Commission is constructed on the basis of the traditional concept of Faith and Order. Some people feel that the Lund Conference closed one era of Faith and Order work and that the Oberlin Conference opened a new one. Not all people, however, feel this way. It would seem to be important that this whole matter be discussed among the member Churches in the same fashion that

integration is being discussed. There should be some preparatory statement made by a wider group than the present Faith and Order Commission and this should be put before the churches.

Dr. Blake reminded the Committee that the report of the Programme and Finance Committee is to be circulated to the churches. The Faith and Order report might be attached with some sharp questions.

Bishop Newbigin agreed with Dr. Bliss that the question of the function of Faith and Order was very far-reaching. This matter should go to the Faith and Order Commission first before going to the churches. He hoped that administrative questions would not be confused with the larger issue.

Dr. Visser 't Hooft suggested that the issue of "Churchly Unity" and the question of the role of Faith and Order in the World Council could be themes for the Central Committee next summer.

Dr. Payne commented that it is necessary to bear in mind the relation of this matter to integration. It might be that a major change in the structure of the proposed integrated body at this date would not be considered fair.

Bishop Newbigin commented that this was entirely true as regards structure. If, however, "Churchly Unity" is a long term discussion which is not built into a structural change at the Third Assembly, there is no reason why this should not proceed.

The Chairman made the following suggestion concerning procedure which was agreed by the Committee.

1. That the matter would be presented to the Central Committee at Rhodes and there discussed.

2. That the Finance Committee at Rhodes would deal with immediate proposals.

3. That the Programme and Finance Committee would give its reactions to the organizational proposals.

4. That the whole report would be fully discussed at the meeting of the Faith and Order Commission in the summer of 1960.

5. There would be a report to the Central Committee in 1960.

6. The discussion on "Churchly Unity" would be a part of the discussion at the Third Assembly in the section on Unity.

The General Secretary proposed, and the Committee agreed, that at Rhodes Professor d'Espine should be asked to present the report and that there would be a discussion in a plenary

meeting.

The Bishop of Bristol indicated that it was important for the Faith and Order Commission to have reasons as to why Faith and Order should not be a Division.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11.00 a.m. on Tuesday 18th August, 1959.